(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to provide good quality seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Seeds Act, 1966 provides the framework for regulating quality of certain seeds in the Country Notification of a variety is based on the Value for Cultivation and Usage test. Seeds of a notified variety can be sold only if they conform to the standards prescribed under this Act. The Act also provides for voluntary certification of varieties. Certification entails a third party guarantee by an independent agency and ensures genetic identity and genetic purity. The Central Seed Committee and Central Seed Certification Board and its various sub committees are the agencies set up under the Seeds Act to deal with all matters relating to quality control of the seeds. Seed Inspectors notified under the Seeds Act are empowered to draw the samples and varify the standards Violation of the Seeds Act is a punishable offence. Seed (Control) Order, 1983 another legal instrument, has been issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 in order to ensure distribution of quality seeds to the farmers. Seeds (Control) Order regulates seed production and distribution. The order provides for licensing of seed dealers, the modalities of inspection, sampling, punishment of dealers, suspension and cancellation of licences and has put in place a rigorous system of regulation and enforcement. However, the Seed Act and the Seed (Control) Order do not apply to farm saved seed.

Setting up of a funding agency

1206. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fisheries sector has demanded for setting up of a funding agency to help for purchasing fishing vessels;

(b) whether Government are aware of the shortage of funding to this critical sector;

(c) the steps Government are taking to fund buying of fishing vessels to the sector to exploit the sea reasources; and

(d) the details of funding proposed and the agency which will do the actual processing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No specific request for setting up of a funding agency has been received. However, some requests have been received for assistance for purchase of fishing vessels.

(b) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of the fund requirements/finance to the fishing industry.

(c) and (d) The Government is allowing deferred payment for acquisition of deep sea fishing vessels. Further under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, subsidy is provided upto Rs. 4.00 lakh for acquisition of intermediate craft of less than 20m length. Subsidy is also provided for conversions of trawlers of tuna long liners. Request for acquisition of vessels under deferred payment is processed by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries under Ministry of Agriculture and the proposals for acquisition of intermediate craft is processed by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and for conversion from trawlers of tuna long liners is processed by Fishery Survey of India.

Doubling foodgrain production

1207. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PM had said that it was possible to double food production by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan with available technologies;

(b) if so, the modalities worked out for this purpose; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Increasing agricultural productivity and doubling food production by 2010 has been identified as one of thrust areas. Further, with objective of increasing overall productivity of cereals under specific crop based systems, Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems areas (ICDP-Rice) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Wheat) and Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals based Cropping Systems areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals) under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) are under implementation in the country as Centrally sponsored scheme. The